

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000056

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: e cigarettes

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Moore, Claire

Question:

As part of its work to advise the Federal government on an appropriate regulatory regime for e-cigarettes, I understand that the Federal Department of Health is undertaking a review of policy options - "Department of Health review of regulations for electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and smokeless tobacco.

- a) When does the Department expect this work to be finished?
- b) Unlike similar reviews, this work has not been opened to public consultation – can the Department explain why?
- c) Have consumers of e-cigarettes been consulted and if not, why not?
- d) Who has been consulted as part of this review and why?
 - e) Will this review be open for public consultation as has been the case for similar reviews in South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland? If so, when? If not, why not?
- f) Will this work be released to the public? If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a) The Department expects this work to be completed in June 2016.
- b) The purpose of the consultation process is to seek feedback from Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies, public health academics with technical expertise in electronic cigarettes who have a range of advocacy positions on electronic cigarettes, and organisations that represent vulnerable groups. The outcomes of the project will inform policy options for electronic cigarettes that may be considered separately or in coordination by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.
- c) The consultation will seek feedback from stakeholders who have relevant expertise on electronic cigarettes and organisations that represent vulnerable groups.
- d) Consultation has not yet commenced. Information about the stakeholders to be consulted is provided at b).
- e) As per the response provided at b) and c).

f) A decision regarding the release of the review will be made once this work has been completed.